

# Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

February, 2007

## January Hamfest - Another success!

Our January hamfest was another big success. Although rain was threatening on Friday the weather report called for clear skies on Saturday and we were not disappointed. Attendance was on par with last year and the event was a financial success. Special thanks goes to Henry W2DZO and Van KC4WSK for arriving early and getting things going.



## FARC sponsors NCQP again

The 2007 North Carolina QSO Party, sponsored by our club, will be held on Sunday, February 25 from 12 noon local until 10PM that evening. All rules, tips, and logging info are available at the NCQP tab on our website, w4nc.com. This is a great opportunity to try your hand at a contest, or just to test your station's ability to communicate with all 100 counties of our state, as well as being the wanted station by others across the country. The exchange is very simple- signal report and your county. Be sure to listen for the mobile stations as they cross county lines (or operate mobile yourself!) Our club will have 2 bonus stations on the air, W4NC at John Kippes house, and W4WS at several locations TBD. Be sure to get on the air and support our state QSO party!

## KG4NEP and W2DZO to operate as V26H for ARRL DX SSB Contest

On March 3 and 4, Robert KG4NEP and Henry W2DZO will have the rare opportunity to operate a major contest from one of the premiere contesting stations in the world- the V26B station in Antigua. We'll be operating the ARRL's International DX SSB Contest. The contest starts at 0000 on Saturday, March 3 (Friday night) and runs for 48 hours through Sunday evening. We are asking all club members to please get on and work us on ALL bands- 160 through 10 meters during the contest (and before as well if you'd like!) The exchange is 59 and your ARRL section (NC)- we will give out a signal report and power (1000 or "K")- The objective is for US and Canadian stations to work ONLY outside of US/VE and all DX stations to work only US/VE.

We will use the call V26H during the contest and Robert will also be on before and after the contest as V26RW. Naturally, this is a great chance to fill up your needed countries totals or try to work a new one. And... you can help Robert and I try to finish in the top 5 in the WORLD. So, get that HF gear ready to work us and try to work us on all bands.

We will be leaving on Wednesday, February 28 out of Charlotte and land in Antigua late that night. Look for us on all the bands chatting and testing before the contest on Thursday and Friday, especially on 80 meters in the evenings. Check the packet clusters online to see where we are. We'll return to Winston-Salem Monday evening via Charlotte. Thanks for all your support and we hope to work you from V2 and get you a nice QSL card!

## Morse Code License Requirement Ends

Effective February 23 morse code testing will no longer be required for a ham license. It's been talked about for years, even decades. There have been a lot of strong feelings on both sides of this issue. But now the decision is made. Although there have been a number of arguments made for both sides a commonly given reason for keeping the requirement was that it keep out those who were "not worthy". Any night-time scan of the 80-meter phone band generally shot holes in that argument. As someone put it "It's not the class of the license, it's the class of the amateur." And just in case you've been living under a ham-radio rock - in December the HF bands allocations were changed.

### Club Meeting, Monday February 12, 2007

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 690 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to "hob-nob" with your fellow hams. Jeff Stafford will present the history of AC4YN, Jeff is the third holder of that call. It's early history goes back to pre WWII Tibet.

**Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc** is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 690 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-723-7388; or visit our web site at [www.w4nc.com](http://www.w4nc.com). Club email is to [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com).

Officers for 2007 are:

President: Don Edwards, WS4NC  
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[ki4kns@w4nc.org](mailto:ki4kns@w4nc.org)

Secretary: Megan Hardy, KI4KNM  
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**To join our list server send a blank email to  
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We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many local clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

## Short Circuits:

**FARC Repeaters** - Late last year the board discussed the future of the FARC repeaters. They have been based on surplus Motorola units that have gone long beards. New repeater-grade equipment is expensive. We decided to see if we can base both the transmitter and receiver on Yaesu FT-1802M transceivers since they are widely available, and the costs are low. The first of the new modules should be ready about next week. It will be brought to the Monday night general membership meeting for show and tell.

**Big Donation!** - Thanks to KB6MTH, Dr. Raja Chatterjee the club treasury is in healthy condition. Dr. Chatterjee worked a small consulting job and requested in lieu of payment that the check be donated to FARC. Our treasurer reports the receipt of a donation of \$1150.00. Thank you Raja!

**Lost and Found** - John Kippe N0KTY is missing two headsets from field day. One is a Radio Shack pair and the other is a new Heil headset bought at this year's Dayton. It was a sad Kippe at CQWW this year without his headset. The thinking was that they had been packed away with the club gear from Field Day. All of that has been gone through and they didn't turn up. Please check your field day stuff and see if John's headsets were accidentally packed away with your stuff.

**Small Rotor Wanted** - Looking for a small rotor for 2 VHF/UHF beams. (11.3 ft and 28 ft. in length) Total weight of the two without the mast is 15 pounds. Combined windload is 2.63 sq. feet. Mast size will be 1.250"

*Ed KU4BP*

**Cushcraft ARX-270 Ringo Ranger** - Dick Genaille W4UW has a dual band 70cm/2M Ringo Ranger for sale. \$25.00 Call Dick at 765-4697.

## Upcoming Hamfests & Other Ham Dates

Feb 3 ARRL SC State Convention Ladson, SC  
Feb 12 - FARC General Membership Meeting  
Feb 18 Frostfest/ARRL VA State Convention Richmond, VA  
Feb 19 - FARC Board Meeting  
Feb 26 - PVRC-NC West meeting at Chrome Restaurant WS, NC

March 10-11: North Carolina Section Convention/Charlotte Hamfest  
March 12 - FARC General Membership Meeting  
March 19 - FARC Board Meeting  
March 25: Down East Hamfest, Kinston, NC  
March 26 - PVRC-NC West meeting at Chrome Restaurant WS, NC

April 1: North Carolina State Convention/Raleigh Hamfest  
April 15 Hamfest Chesapeake, VA

**June 9 - Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC**



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## ARES NET

Just a reminder, please join us on the Forsyth County Ares Net Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on the W4NC repeater, frequency 145.47 Mhz.

*73, John, N0KTY, Forsyth EC*

### Forsyth County ARES Reports

#### January 4, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM local. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.

Check-ins: 12. Stations were KF4EOD Mike, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, KC8OEX Terry, KC4WSK Van, N0KTY John, KE4ZFN Bryce, KG4JWU Steven, KG4DKN Buddy, K5PK Steve, WD4DLP Darren and KG4ECI Dan.

There were two announcements - NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD net is on holiday break and will resume on Jan. 11, 2007. KG4ECI announced that the FARC Winter Hamfest will be held at the Summit School parking lot on January 7. People are welcome after 6 AM but the main hours are to be from 8 AM to noon.

N0KTY John conducted the ARES meeting. The unusual warm and wet weather has caused problems - like washing out some of John's driveway. He reminded us that unusual weather like we have been having can result in about anything from a thunderstorm to an ice storm. Pay attention to the outside temperature and keep your equipment ready for anything.

Formal Session - 17 minutes. Informal Session - 8 minutes. Total time - 25 minutes.

#### January 18, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM local. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.

Check-ins: 10. Stations were KC4WSK Van, N0KTY John, K4GHS Ben, KF4EOD Mike, KI4SSF Joel, KI4SSE Todd, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club and KC8OEX Terry.

There was one announcement by NA4P Fred that the WF4DD net would follow the ARES net at 9 PM and the topic of the evening would be the World Radio Relay League (not to be confused with the ARRL).

Net Control welcomed two new hams, a father and 10 year old son duo - KI4SSE Todd and KI4SSF Joel from the Wilkesboro area.

Our EC was mobile this evening and couldn't hold a formal session.

Formal Session - 12 minutes. Informal Session - 14 minutes. Total time - 26 minutes.

#### January 11, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM local. Net Control - N4PAA

Check-ins: 7. WX5AAA Raymond, K4GHS Ben, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KC8OEX Terry, WB9SZL Dale and N4PAA Carl.

There was one announcement by NA4P Fred that the WF4DD net will resume this evening at 9 PM or after the informal session of the ARES net. We were invited to stay and take part in their information and training net.

There was no EC available for the ARES meeting. Net Control reminded participants that although the weather is more like late spring this week, we should stay ready for whenever winter decides to make an appearance in the area.

Formal Session - 9 minutes. Informal Session - 4 minutes. Total time - 13 minutes.

#### January 25, 2007

Net Started - 8:30 PM local. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.

Check-ins: 10. Stations were KC4WSK Van, KC8OEX Terry, WD4DLP Darren, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KI4NHP Boyce, KI4NHQ Karen, KF4EOD Mike and KG4ECI Dan.

There was one announcement by NA4P Fred that the WF4DD net would follow the ARES net at 9 PM and the topic of the evening would be wind power for emergency communications.

Our EC was unavailable for a formal session. Net control reminded us that with the wide variations in temperature we have been having lately, anything can happen, so keep your equipment ready.

Formal Session - 11 minutes. Informal Session - 8 minutes. Total time - 19 minutes.

*N4PAA Carl*

## Noted in ARRL NC Section News:

A HAM RADIO WEDDING! Congratulations to Mooresville's Buck McDaniel, N4PGW and Cat Hage, WB4CAT who were married on the Dallas, NC 145.35MHz repeater on December 30! The Rev. David Roberts, KI4JSQ of Lenoir led the service and they had 63 check-ins. Thanks to Buck and Cat for sharing this special time with the amateur radio community!

### Fun stuff - Ham Radio Related

If you enjoy CW and you have not seen the Morse 505 video clip you might want to check out this link <http://www.zerobeat.net/morse505.html?fix>  
Don't get bored, it starts off with bad sounding CW but gets interesting as it goes. Have fun. 73 Ron, W8RJL

And if you are a Dilbert fan - check this out:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=wplyCogv3to>

### Editor's Corner

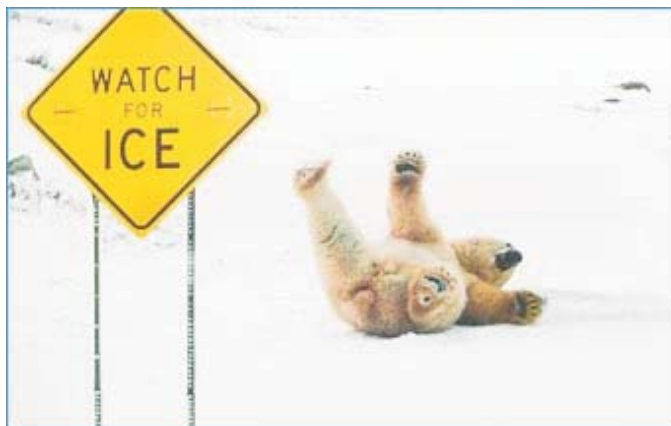
The Club Yaesu FT-920 is in the hospital, it has suffered several problems and is being restored to good health. It should be back sometime in March. If all goes well the new prototype repeater receiver will be at the next FARC general membership meeting. I am really looking forward to Jeff Stafford's program on AC4YN at the next meeting. This promises to be a really good one. There is some special history behind that call and Jeff is very fortunate to have the call.

There's been a lot going on lately in ham radio. Some of the national news would start with the restructuring of the HF bands. I didn't publish the NC nets list this month because I know there are going to be a lot of changes. Another big news item is that the FCC dropped Morse Code as a requirement. As one person eloquently put it - "it's not the class of the license, it's the class of the amateur that makes the difference." That stirs up a big hornet's nest of opinion but the decision is made and let's go on.

All for this month!

*73, Don WS4NC*

### Moment of Zen



Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
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Winston-Salem, NC 27106-1361  
336-723-7388

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Renewal Time - 2007!

**Yes - it's that wonderful time again - time to renewal your FARC dues.  
\$24 a year for regular - \$12 a year for over 65 or student.**

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Over 65?  Y  N

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other family members who are also hams can be full members of FARC for ½ the Main Members dues (covers 1 or more - same price) provided only one newsletter is mailed.

Other family members who are hams:

#1. Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

#2. Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

#3. Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_